

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said additional assay reagent resources may be added to the analyzer in a first increment such that the initial assay throughput is increased by about 50%.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said additional assay reagent resources may be added to the analyzer in first and second increments such that assay throughput is increased by about 50% and by about 33%, respectively.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said additional assay reagent resources comprise a reagent storage area and at least one reagent aspiration and dispense arm.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) A method for increasing the assay throughput of a clinical analyzer by:
  - initially configuring the analyzer with reagent resources to conduct a group of assays, said reagent resources being throughput limiting; and,
  - initially configuring the analyzer with all other assay resources required to conduct said group of assays, said all other assay resources being not throughput limiting;
  - incrementally adding reagent resources to the analyzer in order to increase throughput as the number of assays within said group of assays to be conducted increases; and,
  - increasing utilization of said other not throughput limiting assay resources.